

(Clean copy of amended claims)

217

D1

1. (Four times amended) A snowboard for sliding over snow, comprising:  
an elongated slide board having a slide surface on a lower surface thereof; and  
an elongated step board defining a deck on an upper surface thereof, and attached to an  
upper surface of the slide board via a connecting assembly made of substantially non-  
compressible and relatively rigid material; and  
the connecting assembly retaining the slide board and step board in a fixed, substantially  
parallel and spaced relationship in the immediate vicinity of the connecting assembly during use  
of the snowboard.

2. (Amended) A snowboard according to claim 1, wherein the connecting assembly is provided  
in a substantially middle part of the slide board.

D2

7. (Amended) A snowboard according to claim 1, wherein said ~~connecting assembly comprises~~  
a plurality of connecting members formed of a substantially rigid material and fixed between the  
slide board and the step board.

D3

9. (Thrice amended) A snowboard for sliding over snow, comprising:  
an elongated slide board having a slide surface on a lower surface thereof; and  
an elongated step board defining a deck on an upper surface thereof, and attached to an  
upper surface of the slide board via a connecting assembly, <sup>comprising a plurality of connecting members</sup> made of substantially non-  
compressible and relatively rigid material such that the slide and step boards remain in a fixed,  
substantially parallel and spaced relationship <sup>in the immediate vicinity of the connecting</sup>  
assembly during use of the snowboard.

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<sup>13</sup> 10. (Amended) A snowboard according to claim <sup>12</sup> 9, wherein the connecting <sup>members are</sup> assembly includes a  
~~connecting member~~ formed of relatively rigid material and extending between the slide board  
and the step board.

D4

<sup>16</sup> 13. (Amended) A snowboard according to claim <sup>12</sup> 9, wherein the connecting assembly is  
provided in a substantially middle part of the slide board.

D5

<sup>9</sup> 15. (Amended) A snowboard according to claim 1, wherein the connecting assembly maintains  
a substantially fixed height during use of the snowboard.

<sup>10</sup>  
16. (Amended) A snowboard according to claim 1, wherein the ~~connecting assembly~~ includes at least two ~~connecting members~~ spaced laterally apart from each other.

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18. (Twice amended) A snowboard for sliding over snow, comprising:  
an elongated slide board having a slide surface on a lower surface thereof;  
an elongated step board defining a deck on an upper surface thereof; and  
a connecting assembly made of substantially non-compressible material connecting the step board to an upper surface of the slide board so as to substantially prohibit relative movement between the boards in the immediate vicinity of the connecting assembly during use of the snowboard.

<sup>20</sup>  
19. (Amended) A snowboard for sliding over snow, comprising:  
an elongated slide board having a slide surface on a lower surface thereof;  
an elongated step board defining a deck on an upper surface thereof, the step board being appreciably greater in both length and width than the slide board; and  
a connecting assembly made of substantially non-compressible material connecting the step board to an upper surface of the slide board to allow a substantially increased leverage for the user in controlling the slide board.

<sup>21</sup>  
20. (Amended) A snowboard according to claim <sup>20</sup>19, wherein the connecting assembly retains the slide board and step board in a fixed, substantially parallel and spaced relationship during use of the snowboard.

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New Claim 21

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<sup>21</sup>  
21. (New) A snowboard according to claim 18, wherein the connecting assembly is made of substantially non-compressible and relatively rigid material.

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